

U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
Little Snake Field Office  
455 Emerson Street  
Craig, CO 81625-1129

## ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

**EA-NUMBER:** CO-100-2007-057 EA

Note: The Affected Environment analysis in this document tiers off of The Emerald Mountain Land Exchange Environmental Assessment/Plan Amendment (EA CO-100-2006-089) which may be referenced at <http://www.co.blm.gov/lra/lraindex.htm> or the Little Snake Field Office. This document presents Phase 1 of the Recreation Activity Management Plan and Transportation Management Plan (RAMP/TMP Phase 1) implementing actions of the Emerald Mountain Land Exchange Environmental Assessment/Plan Amendment (EA CO-100-2006-089)

**PROJECT NAME:** Emerald Mountain Recreation Implementation Plan (RAMP/TMP Phase 1)

**LEGAL DESCRIPTION:** T6N R85W, Sec 25

**PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW:** The proposed action is subject to the following plan:

LUP Amendment: Emerald Mountain Land Exchange Environmental Assessment/Plan Amendment (EA CO-100-2006-089) and Decision Record

Date Approved: October 4, 2006

LUP Name: Little Snake Resource Area, Resource Management Plan (RMP)/EIS and Record of Decision (ROD)

Date Approved: April 26, 1989

Final RMP/EIS: September 1986

Draft RMP/EIS: February 1986

The proposed action has been reviewed for conformance with this plan (43 CFR 1610.5, BLM 1617.3). The proposed action is in conformance with the plan objectives. The proposed action implements the RMP Amendment (EA CO-100-2006-089) Recreation Management objectives in Section 9.4.3.4 Recreation Management Zone 1, to provide opportunities for strenuous, challenging mountain biking, Nordic Skiing, and similar activities. The proposed action also initiates implementation of Recreation Management objectives in Section 9.4.3.4 Recreation

Management Zone 2, to provide opportunities primarily for wildlife viewing, hiking, horseback riding, hunting, and similar non-mechanized activities. The proposed action also initiates the Travel Management objectives in Section 9.4.3.5 to establish and mark one or more legal access points and parking areas along the Cow Creek Road and to work with partners to define an on-the-ground designated trail network.

**NEED FOR PROPOSED ACTION:** The purpose of the proposed project is to meet the recreation management objectives of the RMP amendment.

**PUBLIC SCOPING PROCESS:** The NEPA log is posted on the Little Snake Field Office web site before the project is approved.

**DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES:** The proposed action is to implement the projects as described in the Emerald Mountain Recreation Implementation Plan (IP). Specific projects are described in IP (Attachment A) and in the sections below:

### **1) Trail construction**

The BLM would construct new trails or improve sections of existing trails in sustainable locations within the appropriate management zones to connect with public access points (i.e. City of Steamboat Springs trails and trail easements). The zone delineation boundary between zone 1 and zone 2 may be adjusted moderately to accomplish the proposed recreational development within each zone while still maintaining the setting and objectives of each zone as described in the RMP Amendment (EA CO-100-2006-089). The trails would be single track and cleared of trees and brush to provide sufficient visibility and passing room for trail activities. Trail signs would be posted to mark the route and provide trail regulations, safety, and etiquette messages appropriate for the management zone.

The following trails have been identified in collaboration with the Emerald Mountain Partnership and the City of Steamboat Springs for designation and implementation (see Attachments A and B). These trails would be designated and available for foot and/or horseback and/or mechanized non-motorized use (i.e. mountain bikes) unless otherwise indicated.

- Agate Creek Trail (from Blackmere Drive Trail to City of Steamboat Springs Humble Ranch Easement)
- Ridge Trail (from Blackmere Drive Trail to Cow Creek Road)
- Ridge Trail Loop ( in northwest corner of Emerald Mountain Parcel)
- Agate Creek Connector Trail (from Agate Creek Trail to the City of Steamboat Springs Humble Ranch Easement). This trail may be initially opened as non-mechanized with mechanized travel authorized at a future date.
- Humble Ranch Connector Trail/Loop (from Cow Creek Road to City of Steamboat Springs Humble Ranch Easement). This trail would be initially designed as a non-mechanized trail. Mechanized travel may be considered pending further site specific zone boundary review and adjustment consideration.

Additional trails may be collaboratively proposed by community partners through the IP revision process. The BLM would make final decisions on collaborative recommendations by community partners and affected parties on trail locations, designations, and construction.

BLM staff and authorized contractors/cooperators would provide trail flagging, GPS/GIS records, and cultural clearances. Trail construction would be performed by the Rocky Mountain Youth Corps, Steamboat Springs Community Youth Corps, volunteers, City of Steamboat Springs, BLM staff and authorized contractors. BLM would provide oversight and direction on all phases of the trail construction. The trails would meet or exceed all applicable BLM trail construction standards. The standards include minimum 3-foot width cleared to dirt or surface vegetation, follows land contours at or below 10% grade, side slanted surface or water dips for drainage where needed. Trail drainage design will take advantage of rocky areas and natural drainage areas to minimize erosion and maintenance requirements. Constructed splash guards or other energy dissipaters will be utilized as required where natural features do not occur. The vegetation canopy would be cleared to minimum 4 foot width and 9 foot height. Drainage crossings would be natural or improved with rocks and gravel where needed. No bridges would be required.

## **2) Trailhead development**

The BLM would construct parking areas and install day use shelters, picnic tables, vault toilets, directional and interpretive signing or other appropriate facilities at or near the approximate locations indicated on the attached map. The immediate area of the facilities would be cleared of vegetation and construction would meet BLM standards. Several trailhead parking areas and day use facilities have been identified and would be developed in collaboration with the Emerald Mountain Partnership, the City of Steamboat Springs, Routt County, and other partners. Plans for the parking areas, signs and facilities would be submitted to Routt County for approval through their planning process to minimize traffic safety concerns. For pipelines and buried communication lines, the “One Call” system to locate and stake the centerline of all underground facilities prior to construction activity would be employed. In addition, BLM would provide 48 hours notification to the owner/operator of any buried utilities or other facilities prior to conducting any construction work within 10 feet of the facility. The following two trailhead developments are proposed:

- The Ridge Trail parking area (NW1/4, NW1/4 Section 27) would be constructed along Cow Creek Road. It would be approximately 200' x 200' (space for 20 cars) with 6" of compacted road base surface. There would be approximately two open air accessible concrete picnic tables and two concrete picnic tables or with metal or wood weather shelters. One two-sided prefab concrete vault toilet (approximately 10' deep, 15' wide, and 30' long) would be excavated and installed. One metal or wood information kiosk would be installed (approximately 3-4 posts 4' deep).
- Humble Ranch Connector Trail parking area (SW1/4, SW1/4 Section 35) would be constructed along Cow Creek Road. It would be approximately 100' x 100' (space for 10

cars) with 6" of compacted road base surface. There would be approximately two open air accessible concrete picnic tables and two concrete picnic tables or with metal or wood weather shelters. One two sided prefab concrete vault toilet (approximately 10' deep, 15' wide, and 30' long) would be excavated and installed. One metal or wood information kiosk would be installed (approximately 3 – 4 posts 4' deep).

Additional trailhead parking areas and facilities may be proposed by the BLM or community partners through the IP revision process. The BLM would make final decisions on collaborative recommendations by community partners and affected parties on trailhead locations, facilities and construction.

### **3) Access Portals for foot, horse, and bicycle access**

The BLM would modify the existing fence along cow creek to create appropriate access portals for foot and horse use along the Management Zone 2 boundary and foot, horse, and bicycle use at the trail endpoints within Management Zone 1. The portals along the Management Zone 2 boundary for access for foot and horseback day use in Management Zone 2, initiates the ability to achieve targeted recreational opportunities. These opportunities and objectives were identified in Section 9.4.3.4 Recreation Management Zone 2, to provide opportunities primarily for wildlife viewing, hiking, horseback riding, hunting, and similar activities.

### **4) Standard operating procedures employed in project implementation:**

Several operating procedures will be employed during project implementation to protect a variety of resources on Emerald Mountain. These procedures are:

Impacts to cultural resources will be mitigated through a range of practices as necessary from project avoidance to research design guided cultural data recovery excavations.

Any cultural and/or paleontological resource (historic or prehistoric site or object) discovered during trail construction shall be immediately reported to the authorized officer. Construction operations shall be suspended in the immediate area of such discovery until written authorization to proceed is issued by the authorized officer. An evaluation of the discovery will be made by the authorized officer to determine appropriate actions to prevent the loss of significant cultural or scientific values.

Project activities which remove migratory bird nesting habitat will not be permitted during the months of May 15 through July 15 to prevent disturbance to nesting migratory birds.

Spring and seep sources will be avoided during construction of new trail segments. New trail segments will be located to avoid all wetland areas if possible. Site specific mitigation will be developed for areas that cannot be avoided.

Storm water permits for day use parking areas will be acquired as needed prior to construction of the parking/day use area.

## **5) Compliance plan(s):**

**Compliance Schedule:** Compliance will be conducted during the construction phase and maintenance phase to ensure that all terms and conditions specified in the Implementation Plan are followed. This will be done on a five-year compliance schedule after completion of the project.

**Monitoring Plan:** The Emerald Mountain use and condition of trails, trailheads and facilities will be monitored during the life of the project for compliance with all stipulations and pertinent regulations as well as achievement of identified recreation objectives within each zone. Corrective action will be identified and implemented as needed.

**Assignment of Responsibility:** Responsibility for implementation of the compliance schedule and monitoring plan will be assigned to the Recreation staff in the Little Snake Field Office. The primary inspector will be the Recreation Specialist.

**NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE:** The “no action” alternative is that the proposed action implementation of projects described in the Recreation Implementation Plan would not be approved and the recreation and travel management objectives identified in the RMP Amendment would not be achieved. The Emerald Mountain Parcel would remain under Interim Management indefinitely and public access would be limited to travel on foot (and horse back in hunting season) and dogs on leashes. Mechanized travel would not be allowed and no trails or trailhead facilities would be developed. The No Action alternative was already analyzed in the Emerald Mountain management plan/land exchange EA under Alternative "D". Implementing the No Action Alternative would be inconsistent with the amended RMP. Therefore, the No Action Alternative was considered but will not be analyzed in this EA.

## **AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT/ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES/MITIGATION MEASURES**

This section describes relevant aspects of the affected environment of the Emerald Mountain Parcel and identifies the environmental consequences of the proposed action for all critical resources. The affected environment of the project area is discussed in the Emerald Mountain Land Exchange Environmental Assessment/Plan Amendment (EA CO-100-2006-089), and remains unchanged since that analysis. The affected environment sections of this EA referenced the former NEPA document, which is available on-line at which may be referenced at [www.co.blm.gov/lra/lraindex.htm](http://www.co.blm.gov/lra/lraindex.htm) or at the Little Snake Field Office.

Several critical resources are not relevant to the proposed action. These resources are not discussed further in this document for the reason identified.

Critical Element	NA or Not Present	Applicable or Present, No Impact
Air Quality		<b>X</b>
Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs)	<b>X</b>	
Prime and Unique Farmland	<b>X</b>	
Flood Plains		<b>X</b>
Hazardous or Solid Wastes	<b>X</b>	
Ground Water Quality		<b>X</b>
Sensitive Species-Plants	<b>X</b>	
T&E Species-Plants	<b>X</b>	
Wild and Scenic Rivers	<b>X</b>	
Wilderness Areas	<b>X</b>	
Wilderness Study Areas	<b>X</b>	

## CULTURAL RESOURCES

Affected Environment: See EA CO-100-2006-089

Environmental Consequences: The proposed action developed for the selected management alternative would directly address the level of physical development and human presence that would take place within the project area. These plans would address cultural resource survey, identification, and protection in a case-by-case analysis of the proposed project.

The discussed proposed action would, by management design and location, increase year-round visitation and recreational use of Emerald Mountain. This would constitute the greatest threat to cultural resources. Those projects directly related to construction, or designation of specific areas for certain activities, would require appropriate cultural resource Section 106 processes to be conducted.

Mitigative Measures: None

Name of specialist and date: Robyn Watkins Morris, 4/25/07

## ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Affected Environment: See EA CO-100-2006-089

Environmental Consequences: As required by Executive Order 12898, "Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations,"

federal agencies are asked to consider the composition of an affected area to determine whether minority populations, low-income populations, or Native American tribes are affected by actions proposed by that agency and whether there would be disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on these populations.

The proposed action would not have an adverse impact on minorities, low-income, or Native American populations. No sacred sites have been identified within the planning area, and consultation with all affected Native American tribes was initiated early on in the planning process. There would be no adverse human health impact. While some of the actions proposed may have slight direct and indirect impacts to the environment, for example trail construction, there would not be any significant, long-term impact associated with any proposed management alternatives. Consequently, management actions resulting from the implementation of the Plan Amendment would not cause disproportionate adverse impacts to minority populations, low-income populations, or Native Americans.

Mitigative Measures: None

Name of specialist and date: Mike Andrews, 04/13/07

## **INVASIVE, NONNATIVE SPECIES**

**Affected Environment:** The following narrative supplements the information provided in EA CO-100-2006-089. Routt County has designated these weed species as noxious weeds which must be controlled: leafy spurge, diffuse knapweed, spotted knapweed, Russian knapweed, hoary cress (whitetop), Dalmatian toadflax, yellow toadflax, meadow knapweed, and houndstongue. Under State Law these weeds must be managed on lands within the County. Several more noxious weed species are on the State lists and additional noxious weeds and invasive plants require weed control as per BLM policy.

**Environmental Consequences:** The existing county road, the proposed parking areas and the existing and proposed road and trail network within the Emerald Mountain area would provide a vector for weed species to be introduced and established. Vehicle traffic that occurs on this road or that visits the parking areas may spread existing weeds within the area as well as introduce new weed species from outside Emerald Mountain. People, dogs, horses and recreation equipment that access the proposed trails also have the potential to carry and distribute weed seed from existing and new sources of weeds. The proposed action would utilize existing roads and trails and construct new trails to link to the trail network or to relocate unsuitable trail segments for designated uses. These new trails would become susceptible to weed invasion with increasing ground disturbance. Areas of concentrated human use on designated roads and trails, and increased ground disturbance caused by these activities, increase the potential for the introduction of invasive and noxious weed species. Weeds that become established along the trails and parking areas would eventually be observed by informed visitors and once detected could be treated with integrated management techniques. Weed seed that is carried by runoff water, animals or

people that leave the trail can infest areas outside of the trail network and pose a greater potential for going undetected.

Although certified weed free forage or feed would be required at parking areas as per BLM policy there would be no certification of hay fed to horses prior to their entry on public lands. Horses ingesting non-certified weed free forage or feed within a minimum of three days of entering the Emerald Mountain area have the potential to introduce new weed seed.

Mitigative Measures: Information concerning the spread of weeds and pictures of weeds that are known to occur in the area or have a good potential for becoming established in the area should be placed in kiosks at trail heads. Weed inventory sheets should be available for the public, along with other brochures that may available to the public at trailheads, also.

Name of specialist and date: Ole Olsen, 5/8/07

## **MIGRATORY BIRDS**

Affected Environment: See EA CO-100-2006-089

Environmental Consequences: Recreational activities can have impacts on migratory birds. Impacts include nest abandonment, displacement and a change in species composition. Gutzwiller et al. (1998) found an increase in pedestrian activity through breeding territories of forest birds caused nest abandonment and decreased nest attentiveness. Hiking trails may also displace certain species of forest birds. Miller et al. (1998) found that generalist species of songbirds were more abundant than specialized species near hiking trails. The proposed action would have some impacts to migratory birds, primarily due to an increase in human presence. These impacts are expected to be isolated, and mainly associated with travel corridors. It is unlikely that the proposed action would influence populations of migratory birds on a landscape level.

Mitigative Measures: None

Name of specialist and date: Gail E. Martinez, 4/10/07

## **NATIVE AMERICAN RELIGIOUS CONCERNS**

Affected Environment: See EA CO-100-2006-089

Environmental Consequences: The BLM notified the following Native American groups of the proposed Emerald Mountain Land Exchange and Management Plan project in September 2004: Southern Ute Tribe, Ute Mountain Ute Tribal Council, Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs, and the Uintah and Ouray Tribal Council. No concerns regarding traditional or religious cultural properties or places were identified that would affect this project or the alternatives (correspondence on file at BLM Little Snake Field Office in Craig, Colorado).

Mitigative Measures: None

Name of specialist and date: Robyn Watkins Morris, 4/25/07

## **RIPARIAN AND WETLAND HABITATS**

Affected Environment: EA CO-100-2006-089

Environmental Consequences: Recreation activities have some potential to impact riparian systems. These impacts would be similar to recreation impacts on upland vegetation, including trampling and the introduction or dispersal of weeds. The proposed action would establish a trail network for the Emerald Mountain Area that would concentrate and focus hiking, biking and horseback riding to these designated trails. Designating trails should reduce trampling and the inadvertent establishment of many minor trails that would cross Cow Creek to access Emerald Mountain. The proposed parking areas at the trail heads and the other areas along the county road adjacent to Cow Creek would still experience dispersed recreation activities by casual users enjoying the riparian habitat.

Trail segments along the banks of Cow Creek would be susceptible to scouring from high water flows. Accelerated soil erosion from rain drop impact and runoff flow on the trail for a short distance upstream of Cow Creek would also be sources of stream sediment. Minor sediment deposition resulting from these sources would not cause degradation of the riparian resources. Maintenance of the trail adjacent to Cow Creek would help to correct scouring or excessive erosion of the trail and keep the intended users on the trail, preventing additional off-trail impacts.

Several springs and seeps occur within the Emerald Mountain Area, but the exact locations have not been determined at this time. The new trail segments would be located to avoid all wetland areas. Site specific mitigation will be developed for areas that cannot be avoided, because of continuous occurrence within the upland drainages.

Mitigative Measures: None

Name of specialist and date: Ole Olsen, 5/8/07

## **T&E SPECIES – ANIMALS**

Affected Environment: See EA CO-100-2006-089

Environmental Consequences: Recreation and travel management may have some impacts to lynx. A variety of factors, such as the time of year, the time of day and frequency of the activity may influence the effects of recreation on lynx. Staples (1995) described lynx as being generally tolerant of humans. Other anecdotal reports also suggest that lynx are not displaced by human presence, including moderate levels of snowmobile traffic (Mowat et al. 2000, J. Squires pers. comm. 1999, G. Byrne pers. comm.. 1999). Anecdotal information

(Roe et al. 1999, J. Squires pers. comm. 1999, G. Byrne pers. comm.. 1999) suggest that individual lynx behave differently in response to the presence of humans and their associated activities, depending on the environment setting where the interaction occurred. “Intuitively we assume that some threshold exists where human disturbance becomes so intense that it precludes use of an area by lynx” (Ruediger et al. 2000). Dispersed recreation activities, such as hiking, mountain biking and horseback riding, that occur in the summer daylight hours would be unlikely to be at a level that would disturb or displace lynx utilizing habitat on Emerald Mountain.

Winter recreation activities have the greatest potential to impact lynx use of habitat on Emerald Mountain. Over the snow recreation leads to snow compaction along roads and trails. This may create travel corridors for coyotes and bobcats into areas where deep snow would normally preclude these species. The presence of these species in lynx habitat may result in interference competition, direct competition for prey or even mortality of lynx as a result of predation. The management plan does not allow snowmobile use of the parcel, therefore considerably reducing the amount of snow compaction that may occur. Dispersed Nordic skiing and snowshoeing would be allowed on the parcel and would lead to limited amounts of compacted snow trails. Although skiing and snowshoeing would not be limited to designated routes, it is likely that the same routes would be used once established through the snow. Snow compaction may lead to some negative impacts to lynx, however these impacts are not expected to be at a level that would prevent lynx from moving through or utilizing habitats on the Emerald Mountain parcel.

Mitigative Measures: None

Name of specialist and date: Gail E. Martinez, 4/10/07

## **WATER QUALITY - SURFACE**

**Affected Environment:** The following narrative supplements the information provided in EA CO-100-2006-089. The proposed trails will be constructed on moderate to steep forested mountain slopes within the drainage area of Cow Creek and a minor portion of the headwater areas of Agate Creek. Cow Creek is an intermittent tributary of the Yampa River and Agate Creek is an intermittent to ephemeral tributary to the Yampa River. Several springs and seeps occur within the Emerald Mountain area, but the exact locations have not been determined at this time. The Yampa River and its tributaries along this segment of the Yampa River need to have water quality that supports Aquatic Life Cold 1, Recreation 1a, Water Supply and Agriculture.

**Environmental Consequences:** Establishment of additional trails would remove the cover of natural vegetation from the soil resource and reduce the soil holding capability of plant roots. After new trail segments are constructed along the Ridge Trail, less use would be anticipated on the existing two-track road. Although portions of the existing two-track road would be utilized for the trail, many of the steeper segments directly following the fall line of the slope would not be used. Colonization of plants on the less used two-track road areas

would be expected to occur if stable soil conditions exist. If excessive runoff and soil erosion is occurring on these unused or avoided use areas of the two-track road, they should be corrected with drainage improvements.

The bare ground effect that is created with trail construction would initiate accelerated soil erosion, which can be reduced to an acceptable level by design factors contained in the proposed action. These factors include limiting the grade of the trail to 10 % or less and constructing the trail with side slanted surface and water drainage dips where appropriate; proper drainage of the trail would prevent runoff water from accumulating and flowing down the trail for excessive distances. In addition, hardening drainage crossings initially or during maintenance activities would help to maintain stability within the stream drainage. Restricting use of the trails to foot, horse and mountain bikes would limit the potential pollutants to water to sediment caused by soil erosion. Motorized trail use could result in some potential for other contaminants such as oil and grease to be deposited on the trail and carried by runoff water.

The anticipated soil erosion could affect water quality of streams and ponds in close proximity. However, with the proper drainage improvements installed and maintained, any subsequent sediment transport to these affected water bodies would be minimal.

Mitigative Measures: None

Name of specialist and date: Ole Olsen, 5/9/07

## **NON-CRITICAL ELEMENTS**

### **PALEONTOLOGY**

Affected Environment: See EA CO-100-2006-089

Environmental Consequences: Since scientifically significant fossils are found abundantly (Class Ia) within the Cretaceous Mancos Shale and the Tertiary Brown's Park Formations (Armstrong & Wolney, 1989), the potential for discovery of significant fossils within these two formations is considered to be high. If any such fossils are located here, construction activities could damage the fossils and the information that could have been gained from them would be lost. The significance of this impact would depend upon the significance of the fossil. The proposed action could also constitute a beneficial impact to paleontological resources by increasing the chances for discovery of scientifically significant fossils.

The potential impact to paleontological resources is usually effectively mitigated by ceasing operations and notifying the Field Office Manager immediately upon discovery of a fossil during construction activities. An assessment of the significance is made and a plan to retrieve the fossil or the information from the fossil is developed.

\_\_\_\_\_ The terrain is such that outcrops are exposed (e.g. Badlands, therefore a surface survey for paleontological resources will be required prior to surface disturbance.

\_\_\_\_\_ The majority of the terrain is covered with developed soils and vegetation. Therefore a surface survey for paleontological resources will not be required.

X The proposed action constitutes limited surface disturbance so as to make discovery of fossils by surface survey unlikely.

The majority of the terrain is covered with developed recent soils and vegetation therefore a surface survey for paleontological resources will not be required.

Mitigative Measures: None.

References:

Armstrong, Harley J. and Wolney, David G., 1989, Paleontological Resources of Northwest Colorado: A Regional Analysis, Museum of Western Colorado, Grand Junction, CO, prepared for Bureau of Land Management, Vol. I of V.

Miller, A. E., 1977, Geology of Moffat County, Colorado, Colo. Geol. Survey Map Series 3, 1:126720

Miller, A. E., 1977, Geologic Map, Routt County, Colorado, Colo. Geol. Survey Map Series 1, 1:126720

Name of specialist and date: Jennifer Maiolo, 4/10/07

## **RANGE MANAGEMENT**

Affected Environment: See EA CO-100-2006-089

Environmental Consequences: Impacts to ongoing livestock grazing management resulting from trail and trailhead construction and public recreation on the Emerald Mountain parcel would be minimal. Outdoor recreation activities of all kinds commonly occur on BLM lands that are also managed for livestock grazing. There is the potential for conflict between human activity and cattle presence in the form of animal harassment by humans or dogs, but these types of conflicts generally have a larger impact on the human activities than on livestock operations.

The public's presence in areas of livestock operations has the greatest potential to impact range improvements. Some of the more common human impacts that can disrupt livestock operations include fence cutting, failure to close gates, vandalism to water developments, and movement of mineral blocks. Vigilance by livestock operators and BLM personnel are the best tools to prevent or minimize disruptions from these activities.

Mitigative Measures: None

Name of specialist and date: Hunter Seim, 4/20/07

## **REALTY AUTHORIZATIONS**

Affected Environment: There are three road easements, five electric transmission lines, one communication line and one air navigation site located on the Emerald Mountain Parcel.

Environmental Consequences: Construction of two parking areas on Cow Creek Road would create safety concerns due to ingress and egress of vehicles. Any buried pipelines or communication lines, known or unknown, could be accidentally damaged during construction activities. Design specifications identified in the proposed action should mitigate these concerns

Mitigative Measures: None

Name of specialist and date: Mike Andrews, 4/23/07

## **RECREATION/TRAVEL MANAGEMENT**

Affected Environment: See EA CO-100-2006-089

Environmental Consequences: The proposed action would implement the Recreation and Travel Management resources decisions identified in the RMP Amendment. The proposed action would ensure that the prescribed recreation settings, experiences, and benefits are attained and maintained. Required management, monitoring, administration, and marketing would be provided. The objectives for the two recreation zones (SRMAs) would be achieved. The proposed action would provide a mechanism to develop and foster the collaborative community partnership effort. The trails and trailhead parking areas and facilities are essential links to the City of Steamboat Springs Howelsen Hill and Core trail systems.

Mitigative Measures: None

Name of specialist and date: Jim McBrayer, 4/23/07

## **SOILS**

Affected Environment: The following narrative supplements the information provided in EA CO-100-2006-089. Most of the area within the boundaries of the newly acquired Emerald Mountain tract is comprised of Foidel loams, 30 to 65 percent slopes and the Peeler-Pagosa complex, 30 to 65 percent slopes. Parent materials of the Peeler soils are colluvium derived from igneous and metamorphic materials and alluvium derived from sandstone and for the

Pagosa soils it is described as loess over alluvium and residuum derived from sandstone and shale. Parent materials of the Foidel soils are colluvium derived from sandstone and shale and/or slope alluvium derived from sandstone and shale. These soils occupy most of the areas east of Cow Creek and are representative of the mountain slopes in the higher elevations of the tract. Numerous soil mapping units exist in the northwest and northeastern portion of the Emerald Mountain tract and two other soil types are found in the valley along Cow Creek. Only a few of these soil types in the western portion and along Cow Creek are in the area affected by the proposed Ridge Trail realignment, the Ridge Trail Parking Area, the Humble Ranch Connector Trail/Loop and the Humble Ranch Trail Parking Area.

The soils adjacent to Cow Creek and upon which the Ridge Trail parking area is proposed to be located have not been given a soil series name, but are taxonomically referred to as Fluvaquent Haplocryolls, 0 to 3 percent slopes. The parent material of this soil is mixed alluvium (from sandstone and shale) and it is found on floodplains and stream terraces. This soil is somewhat poorly drained and it can have a seasonally high water table. The Humble Ranch Trail Parking Area is currently proposed to be located on the Foidel loam, cool, 25 to 65 percent slopes soil type. With adjustment during the siting of the parking facility it would more likely be located on the Lintum loam, 3 to 12 percent slopes soil or Lintim loam cool, 3 to 25 percent slopes, soil type. Trails leaving both parking areas would traverse the Clayburn very gravelly sandy loam, 30 to 50 percent slopes, very stony, soil type directly upslope from the floodplain/terrace soil; its parent material was colluvium and slope alluvium derived from sandstone. In the Emerald Mountain area the Clayburn soil occupies a narrow area along the footslope and it is positioned directly below the Peeler-Pagosa complex soil.

These soils have a very fine sandy loam to loamy surface textures and about half of the soil types have a 1- to 2-inch duff layer. The Fluvaquent Haplocryolls soil (Ridge Trail Parking Area) has moderate to very rapid permeability and low to moderate water runoff. The remaining soils have slow to moderate permeability and high to very high runoff. Slow water percolation on the Lintim soils is one limitation for its use as a picnic area and parking area. The remaining limitation of the soils to support the parking facilities is the inherent low strength to support vehicle weight. All of the soils that could be utilized to support the trailhead facilities have a low risk of corrosion on concrete.

The primary limitation these soils have for supporting the trail network is the 25 to 65 percent slopes on which they are located and the hazard of erosion both on the trails and where water is released from the trails with drainage. Only the Lintim and the Fluvaquent Haplocryolls soils in the valley bottoms have no limitations identified for trails and have slight to moderate hazards for erosion. Only one soil is identified as being shallow to moderately deep with bedrock encountered at a depth of 20- to 40-inches.

Environmental Consequences: The limitations of the individual soil types identified for parking areas has been extrapolated from limitations identified for camp, picnic areas and the utilization of the natural surface for roads. The proposed action incorporates mitigation that would overcome these limitations at the parking areas by shaping the surface for

drainage and amending the low strength, to prevent surface rutting of the soils with roadbase and gravel.

On the steeper slopes that would be traversed by the trail the soil materials have severe limitations identified for erosion hazard, both on the trail and off-trail and are very limited for use as trails because of the slopes. These limitations would not be easily mitigated. Even though the grade of the trails would be reduced to 10-percent or less the slopes that are being traversed would still have water runoff from the hillslopes above them. This water would be intercepted by the trails and would either be allowed to flow across them or would be diverted down the trails for a short distance. When water accumulates and begins to channel down the trail it becomes more erosive.

Mitigative Measures: None

Name of specialist and date: Ole Olsen, 5/9/07

## **UPLAND VEGETATION**

Affected Environment: See EA CO-100-2006-089

Environmental Consequences: Horseback riding would not create the off-trail impacts because it would be limited to designated roads and trails. However if use of trails is heavy, there would be an increased potential for impacts to grass species from foraging horses. Hiking and Nordic skiing impacts would be similar. Restricting travel to designated trails could result in a greater concentration of snow compaction which could lead to concentrated areas of plant mortality. These localized impacts would not adversely impact the larger plant communities.

Mitigative Measures: None

Name of specialist and date: Hunter Seim, 4/20/07

## **WILDLIFE, AQUATIC**

Affected Environment: See EA CO-100-2006-089

Environmental Consequences: Recreation activities have some potential to impact aquatic wildlife species and riparian habitat. Amphibian species are declining worldwide and direct and indirect impacts from recreational activities may be contributing to this decline (Joslin and Youmans 1999). Impacts to aquatic wildlife habitat from mountain biking, hiking and horseback riding may include trampling of vegetation, introduction or dispersal of weeds, increased erosion, and increased sedimentation in streams and drainages. Snowmobiles may directly emit unspent fuel and oil into the environment, which contaminate water. Since riparian habitat is limited on Emerald Mountain, and recreation activities would be dispersed over the parcel under all alternatives, most of the above mentioned impacts to aquatic

wildlife would be localized and short-term. Recreation would not be expected to create significant impacts to aquatic wildlife or riparian habitat.

Mitigative Measures: None

Name of specialist and date: Gail E. Martinez, 4/10/07

## **WILDLIFE, TERRESTRIAL**

Affected Environment: See EA CO-100-2006-089

**Environmental Consequences:** The proposed action would allow for a variety of mechanized and non-motorized recreational activities in designated areas. By designating areas and trails for specific uses, potential impacts to wildlife species and their habitat can be minimized, while still providing a wide range of recreational opportunities.

The amount of snow compaction would be limited, decreasing potential impacts to subnivean wildlife species and vegetation. This proposed action may also limit snow compaction from Nordic skiing and snowshoeing by designating different objectives in the two zones. Although these activities would be allowed in both zones, concentration of skiing and snowshoeing would be encouraged in RMZ 1. Although skiing and snowshoeing would not be limited to designated routes, it is likely that the same routes would be used once established through the snow. Wildlife would potentially move away from established trails and routes, however, human presence would be expected and predictable along these routes, decreasing potential impacts. Some off-trail skiing and snowshoeing would still be expected under this alternative. The unpredictable nature of off-trail skiing and snowshoeing has the potential to create disturbances and stress wildlife, especially elk using winter habitat.

Hiking, biking and horseback riding would likely impact wildlife species by increasing stress, interfering with foraging, or in some cases, causing a flee response. Impacts from mountain biking would be minimized by designating trails, decreasing the area of influence for this disturbance. Hiking and horseback riding would not be restricted to designated routes, and this may increase impacts to wildlife species. However, these activities would likely occur in the summer and fall months, when big game and other wildlife species can exist in a wider array of habitats and are not under as much stress as in the winter months. Domestic dogs accompanying hikers could potentially harass, injure, or even kill wildlife species. Dogs can increase stress in young or pregnant elk and could potentially injure or kill elk calves during early calving season. Impacts from domestic dogs are limited as all dogs would be required to be on leashes. This would decrease potential harassment of elk cows and calves on the parcel.

Initially, there would not be any impacts to wildlife from mechanized recreation under this alternative. Once routes for mountain biking are established, impacts are expected to be limited to designated trails in Management Zone 1.

Mitigative Measures: None

Name of specialist and date: Gail E. Martinez, 4/10/07

**OTHER NON-CRITICAL ELEMENTS:** For the following elements, those brought forward for analysis will be formatted as shown above.

Non-Critical Element	NA or Not Present	Applicable or Present, No Impact	Applicable & Present and Brought Forward for Analysis
Fluid Minerals		JAM 4/10/07	
Forest Management		JC 4/25/07	
Hydrology/Ground		JAM 4/10/07	
Hydrology/Surface		OO 5/9/07 (see discussion in Water Quality and Soils Sections)	
Socio-Economics		MAA 04/16/07	
Solid Minerals		JAM 4/10/07	
Visual Resources		JDM 4/23/07	
Wild Horse & Burro Mgmt	JDM 4/23/07		

**CUMULATIVE IMPACTS SUMMARY:**

BLM lands on Emerald Mountain are lightly impacted by human activities relative to lands surrounding the parcel, which are mostly urban or highly developed rural/agricultural lands. Most impacts on the BLM parcel relate to historic uses of the parcel, particularly livestock grazing. Ponds, fences, livestock trails, and various two-track roads are present where topography and vegetation allow, but do not impose a substantial presence on the parcel. A large power transmission line, its cleared right-of-way, and its associated access road also bisect the parcel. For the casual observer, this would constitute the most obvious visual impact on the parcel. The Proposed Action to construct trails within the interior of the parcel and trailheads on its periphery would be in addition to these existing impacts on and in the vicinity of the parcel. None of the impacts of the Proposed Action would be out of character with any facilities and/or impacts that are already present either on or surrounding the parcel.

Over the past two decades, the City of Steamboat Springs has developed a number of year-round use non-motorized and mechanized trails that link with adjacent National Forest trails and trails on the Steamboat Ski area, through cooperative partnerships with these entities. The City has also developed trail systems that originate from the Howelson Hill recreation complex that are adjacent to the acquired BLM lands on Emerald Mountain, and has acquired trail easements on nearby private and State lands. This overall trail system originating from the City has been beneficial to the residents of Steamboat and benefited the year-round recreation opportunities

and marketing for destination visitors to Steamboat. The proposed trail and facility developments on the BLM Emerald Mountain lands will help to diversify the overall recreation opportunities that can be accessed from the City, enhance destination visitor marketing and add to the diversity of recreational and trail use and enjoyment by the residing and visiting public to the Steamboat Springs area.

**STANDARDS:**

**PLANT AND ANIMAL COMMUNITY (animal) STANDARD:**

The Emerald Mountain Parcel was assessed for meeting the Colorado Standards for Public Land Health on September 1, 2005. The assessment found the vegetative community to be in good condition, providing productive habitat for a variety of wildlife species. In addition, these habitats occur in a variety of successional stages that are important for the varying life stages of many wildlife species. Emerald Mountain provides important habitat for big game, including winter and calving habitat for elk. The area also provides important habitat for small mammal, reptile, songbird and raptor species. Cow Creek and the seven ponds on Emerald Mountain provide habitat for aquatic wildlife. The proposed action would meet the standard for maintaining productive wildlife communities.

Name of specialist and date: Gail E. Martinez, 4/10/07

**PLANT AND ANIMAL COMMUNITY (plant) STANDARD:**

The proposed action would result in highly localized impacts to the plant community in the form of soil/surface disturbance from the trails and parking areas themselves and clearing of vegetation adjacent to these facilities. These impacts would not affect the larger plant community and would not preclude affected areas from meeting this standard. The proposed action would meet this standard.

Name of specialist and date: Hunter Seim, 4/20/07

**SPECIAL STATUS, THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES (animal) STANDARD:**

The proposed action would meet the standard for threatened and endangered and special status wildlife species. Emerald Mountain provides habitat for the Canada lynx, a species listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. Emerald Mountain also provides habitat for five BLM sensitive species, Northern goshawk, Ferruginous hawk, Greater sage grouse, Columbian sharp-tailed grouse and midget faded rattlesnake. Habitat on Emerald Mountain is currently in good condition, providing suitable and productive habitat for BLM sensitive species.

Name of specialist and date: Gail E. Martinez, 4/10/07

**SPECIAL STATUS, THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES (plant)  
STANDARD:**

There are no federally listed threatened or endangered or BLM sensitive plant species within or in the vicinity of the proposed action. This standard does not apply.

Name of specialist and date: Hunter Seim, 4/20/07

**RIPARIAN SYSTEMS STANDARD:** The proposed action would meet the Riparian Standard for healthy public lands. Although the designated trails would cross Cow Creek, this should reduce overall impacts from dispersed recreation activities. Several springs and seeps occur in the tributary drainages of Cow Creek or are found on the mountain slopes. Any riparian systems that may be supported from these water sources would be avoided or site specific mitigation will be developed to protect the functionality of the system.

Name of specialist and date: Ole Olsen, 5/9/07

**WATER QUALITY STANDARD:** The proposed action would meet the Water Quality Standard for healthy public lands. Constructing new trail segments that conform to the landscape and avoid springs and seeps, as well as having design factors to control drainage and soil erosion are considered Best Management Practices that help to reduce non-point sources of water contaminants. Additional Best Management Practices include grading and shaping of developed parking areas to control runoff waters and surfacing with roadbase and gravel to minimize soil erosion.

The affected segments of the Yampa River, Cow Creek and its tributary streams are presently supporting beneficial uses. None of these stream segments are presently listed as having impaired water quality.

Name of specialist and date: Ole Olsen, 5/9/07

**UPLAND SOILS STANDARD:** The proposed action would require a small area of the upland soil resource to support a different activity that is not consistent with the characteristics of a healthy soil; the parking areas and the trail network would not exhibit the characteristics of a healthy soil. The upland soils are capable of supporting the proposed action with conventional design features to improve runoff drainage and reduce soil erosion and required maintenance.

The remaining upland soils on the Emerald Mountain parcel are well covered by brush and forest and very little to no soil movement was observed on two different sites when an interdisciplinary team of resource specialists conducted a land health assessment on September 1, 2005. The upland soil standard is currently being met and would be met under the proposed action.

Name of specialist and date: Ole Olsen, 5/9/07

**PERSONS/AGENCIES CONSULTED:** Uintah and Ouray Tribal Council, Colorado Native American Commission, Colorado State Historic Preservation Office.

**MITIGATION MEASURES:** None

**ATTACHMENTS:**

**A) Emerald Mountain Implementation Plan**

**B) Emerald Mountain Map with proposed trails, trailheads, and parking areas**

**SIGNATURE OF PREPARER:**

**DATE SIGNED:**

**SIGNATURE OF ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEWER:**

**DATE SIGNED:**

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)**  
**EA CO-100-2007-057**

Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts contained in the EA and all other available information, I have determined that the proposal and the alternatives analyzed do not constitute a major Federal action that would adversely impact the quality of the human environment. Therefore, an EIS is unnecessary and will not be prepared. This determination is based on the following factors:

1. Beneficial, adverse, direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental impacts have been disclosed in the EA. Analysis indicated no significant impacts on society as a whole, the affected region, the affected interests or the locality. The physical and biological effects are limited to the Little Snake Resource Area and adjacent land.
2. Public health and safety would not be adversely impacted. There are no known or anticipated concerns with project waste or hazardous materials.
3. There would be no adverse impacts to regional or local air quality, prime or unique farmlands, known paleontological resources on public land within the area, wetlands, floodplain, areas with unique characteristics, ecologically critical areas or designated Areas of Critical Environmental Concern.
4. There are no highly controversial effects on the environment.
5. There are no effects that are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risk. Sufficient information on risk is available based on information in the EA and other past actions of a similar nature.
6. This alternative does not set a precedent for other actions that may be implemented in the future to meet the goals and objectives of adopted Federal, State or local natural resource related plans, policies or programs.
7. No cumulative impacts related to other actions that would have a significant adverse impact were identified or are anticipated.
8. Based on previous and ongoing cultural surveys and through mitigation by avoidance, no adverse impacts to cultural resources were identified or anticipated. There are no known American Indian religious concerns or persons or groups who might be disproportionately and adversely affected as anticipated by the Environmental Justice Policy.
9. No adverse impacts to any threatened or endangered species or their habitat that was determined to be critical under the Endangered Species Act were identified. If, at a future time, there could be the potential for adverse impacts, treatments would be modified or mitigated not to have an adverse effect or new analysis would be conducted.

10. This alternative is in compliance with relevant Federal, State, and local laws, regulations, and requirements for the protection of the environment.

**DECISION AND RATIONALE:** I have determined that proposed action is in conformance with the approved land use plan. It is my decision to approve the Emerald Mountain Recreation Implementation Plan. The project will be monitored as stated in the Compliance Plan.

It is the policy of the Bureau of Land Management to provide for the public use and enjoyment of public land where such is consistent with resource values; the Bureau's planning system, and local government concerns. To this effect, no conflicts were found; the action does not result in any undue or unnecessary environmental degradation. The action is consistent with the Little Snake Resource Management Plan. The proposed use, as planned and mitigated, is a suitable use of the land, which will not conflict with the present or known future use of the area. The action is consistent with the regulations authorizing use of federal land under 43 CFR Subchapter H – Recreation Programs.

**SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL:**

**DATE SIGNED:**

## **Attachment A**

### **Emerald Mountain Implementation Plan - 4/20/07**

The following Implementation Plan (IP) incorporates requirements for the Recreation Area Management Plan (RAMP) and Travel Management Plan (TMP) identified in the Little Snake Emerald Mountain Land Exchange and Resource Management Plan (RMP) Amendment Environmental Assessment (EA CO-100-2006-089) for Emerald Mountain.

The RMP stipulates that the IP will continue to be collaboratively developed with community partners. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been developed to identify the roles and responsibilities of the BLM and community partners in developing and carrying out the IP.

The IP is a dynamic document intended to address all recreation and travel management actions and needs for the BLM Emerald Mountain Parcel through the collaborative process. It will be reviewed and updated with community partners annually, or more frequently if needed.

The intention of the RMP and IP is to phase-in specific projects and facilities as partners, funding, and other resources become available. It considers and includes actions and needs which may affect or adjoining land owners including the City of Steamboat Springs, Colorado Division of Wildlife, and private landowners.

RMP maintenance adjustments will be also addressed as needed. This provides a mechanism for minor changes and corrections in the RMP document which do not change the overall objectives of the RMP. Examples of RMP maintenance items include mapping adjustments and wording changes to reflect current policy.

The BLM will make final decisions on collaborative recommendations by community partners and affected parties on trail locations, designations, and construction. BLM reserves the right to make different decisions based on its own decision rational and policies.

Recreation Management Zone 1 - Mountain Ridge

<i>PHYSICAL SETTING =</i>		<i>Prescribes the character of the LAND and FACILITIES including remoteness, degree of naturalness, and the type and amount of facilities present.</i>					
<b>Zone 1</b>	<b>Allow a few modifications in an otherwise naturally appearing landscape with existing primitive roads. Retain the existing characteristic landscape. Develop and maintain a few non-motorized multi-use primitive trails with trail signs and erosion controls. Install interpretive sign at/near trailheads. Provide basic facilities such as parking areas, pit toilets, picnic tables, and day use shelters along Cow Creek road.</b>						
<b>Management Actions:</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Where</b>	<b>How (Critical Steps)</b>	<b>When</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>Costs</b>
Designate, construct and maintain routes open for sustainable, non-motorized, multi-use recreation							
Agate Creek Trail: construct alternative single track route west of the DOW property to connect with the COSS easement. Install trail signing and improve existing trail.	A		Trail flagging GPS map Cultural Analysis. BLM recreation planner OK required before construction.	When funding and resources are available.	EMP, COSS, BLM, RMYC, volunteers	- Collaboration with community partners - Environmental Assessment (EA)	\$10,000
Ridge Trail: construct alternative single track route off of the existing two track road as needed. Install trail signing and improve existing trail.	A		Trail flagging GPS map Cultural Analysis. BLM recreation planner OK required before construction.	When funding and resources are available.	EMP, COSS, BLM, RMYC, volunteers	- Collaboration with community partners - Environmental Assessment (EA)	\$30,000
Agate Creek Connector Trail (from Agate Creek Trail to City of Steamboat Springs Humble Ranch Easement): construct new segments and improve existing trail, provide trail signing	B		Trail flagging GPS map Cultural Analysis. BLM recreation planner OK required before construction.	When funding and resources are available.	EMP, COSS, BLM, RMYC, volunteers	- Collaboration with community partners - Environmental Assessment (EA)	\$10,000
Twenty Mile Trail (from County Road 33, a.k. Twenty Mile Road, to the Ridge Trail): construct new segments and improve existing trail, provide trail signing	B		Trail flagging GPS map Cultural Analysis. BLM recreation planner OK required before construction.	When funding and resources are available.	EMP, COSS, BLM, RMYC, volunteers	- Collaboration with community partners - Environmental Assessment (EA)	
Construct Ridge Trail parking area/trailhead, day shelter, picnic tables, vault toilet, interpretive signing	B		Trail flagging GPS map Cultural Analysis. BLM recreation planner OK required before construction.	When funding and resources are available.	EMP, COSS, BLM, RMYC, volunteers	- Collaboration with community partners - Environmental Assessment (EA)	\$120,000

<i>SOCIAL SETTING =</i>	<i>Prescribes the character of HUMAN USE and OCCUPANCY including the amount of contact with other people and evidence of their having been present.</i>						
<b>Zone 1</b>	Visitors can expect a moderate amount of contacts with others and group sizes averaging up to 12 people per group. Some evidence of visitor use, vehicle tracks and worn vegetation likely.						
<b>Management Actions:</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Where</b>	<b>How (Critical Steps)</b>	<b>When</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>Costs</b>
The management of the area will focus on meeting the above social target, even though increasing use of the area could make this target difficult to maintain.	B	Entire Zone	If monitoring, via user survey & patrols indicates that an increase in people is negatively affecting the achievement of benefits or management objectives, then indirect management actions (ie. signing and public education) could be taken to reduce the number of encounters.	feedback from visitors and patrols	BLM, EMP, volunteers	Indirect methods (i.e. signing and public education) to maintain social setting will be utilized in conjunction with recommendations from the EMP before direct visitor limitations would be considered.	
Conduct periodic visitor survey's and maintain a public input process to achieve regular feedback on the "desire for" and "achievement of" the identified management objectives.	B	Area-wide	BLM & EMP Council to begin planning in 2007 to get funding & researcher to perform surveys beginning in 2008.	When funding and resources are available.	To be determined	To be determined	\$50,000

<b>ADMINISTRATIVE SETTING =</b>	<i>Prescribes the character of the SERVICE DELIVERY SYSTEM including the degree of management control, regulation, and visitor services provided by collaborating partners..</i>
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<b>Zone 1</b>	Mechanized and non-mechanized travel allowed on trails. Specially authorized motorized use (permittee, admin., emergency) acceptable. Brochures, maps and some BLM staff/volunteers occasionally available to assist visitors. Periodic enforcement presence. Occasional signing with rules clearly posted at access points. Domestic animals present, non-working dogs must be on a leash. Individual user fees possible.
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<b>Management Actions:</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Where</b>	<b>How (Critical Steps</b>	<b>When</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>Costs</b>
Ensure that Emerald Mountain is managed in accordance with BLM Special Recreation Management area (SRMA) policy where recreation is the principal management focus	A	Entire Zone	BLM will coordinate with partners on management issues within the Zone		BLM	RMP revised by plan maintenance or amendment	None
Monitoring strategy for physical, biological and social objectives.	Ongoing	Entire Zone	Develop monitoring plan (see attached)		BLM, EMP, Volunteers		\$10,000
Develop Annual Budget	Ongoing	N/A	Utilize implementation plan and other information	Annually	EMP, COSS, BLM		None
Secure Funding for Projects and Operations	Ongoing	N/A	Determine grant application deadlines and budget deadlines.	Ongoing	EMP, COSS, BLM		Unknown

Zone 2 - East Cow Creek

<b>PHYSICAL SETTING =</b>	<i>Prescribes the character of the LAND and FACILITIES including remoteness, degree of naturalness, and the type and amount of facilities present.</i>						
<b>Zone 2</b>	The area would generally retain its existing remoteness and naturally appearing landscape. Some trails would be marked and maintained. Trailheads with basic toilets would be provided.						
<b>Management Actions:</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Where</b>	<b>How (Critical Steps)</b>	<b>When</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>Costs</b>
Designate, construct and maintain routes open for non-motorized. non-mechanized use.							
Humble Ranch Connector Trail (from Cow Creek Road to City of Steamboat Springs Humble Ranch Easement): construct new single track or improve existing connector trail, provide trail signing	B		Trail flagging GPS map Cultural Analysis. BLM recreation planner OK required before construction.	When funding and resources are available.	EMP, COSS, BLM, RMYC, volunteers	- Collaboration with community partners - Environmental Assessment (EA)	10,000
Construct Humble Ranch Connector Trail trailhead and parking area (10 cars), day shelter (1), picnic tables (2), vault toilet, interpretive signing	B		Trail flagging GPS map Cultural Analysis. BLM recreation planner OK required before construction.	When funding and resources are available.	EMP, COSS, BLM, RMYC, volunteers	- Collaboration with community partners - Environmental Assessment (EA)	90,000

<i>SOCIAL SETTING =</i>	<i>Prescribes the character of HUMAN USE and OCCUPANCY including the amount of contact with other people and evidence of their having been present.</i>						
<b>Zone 2</b>	Visitors would have few encounters with other groups that average 4-6 people per group. Some evidence of visitor use, specially authorized motor vehicle tracks and worn vegetation likely.						
<b>Management Actions:</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Where</b>	<b>How (Critical Steps)</b>	<b>When</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>Costs</b>
The management of the area will focus on meeting the above social target, even though increasing use of the area could make this target difficult to maintain.	B	Entire Zone	If monitoring, via user survey & patrols indicates that an increase in people is negatively affecting the achievement of benefits or management objectives, then indirect management actions (ie. signing and public education) could be taken to reduce the number of encounters.	on-going feedback from visitors and patrols		Indirect methods (ie. signing and public education) to maintain social setting will be utilized in conjunction with recommendations from the EMP before direct visitor limitations would be considered.	
Conduct periodic visitor survey's and maintain a public input process to achieve regular feedback on the "desire for" and "achievement of" the identified management objectives.	B	Area-wide	BLM & EMP Council to begin planning in 2007 to get funding & researcher to perform a survey in 2008.	2008 implementation	BLM, EMP, volunteers	To be determined	\$50,000

<b>ADMINISTRATIVE SETTING =</b>	<i>Prescribes the character of the SERVICE DELIVERY SYSTEM including the degree of management control, regulation, and visitor services provided by collaborating partners..</i>
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<b>Zone 2</b>	Non- mechanized use allowed. Specially authorized motorized use (permittee, admin., emergency) acceptable. Brochures, maps and some BLM staff/volunteer occasionally available to assist visitors. Periodic enforcement presence. Occasional signing with rules clearly posted at access points. Domestic animals present, non-working dogs must be on a leash. Individual user fees possible.
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<b>Management Actions:</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Where</b>	<b>How (Critical Steps</b>	<b>When</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>Costs</b>
Ensure that Emerald Mountain is managed in accordance with BLM Special Recreation Management area (SRMA) policy where recreation is the principal management focus	A	Entire Zone	BLM will coordinate with partners on management issues within the Zone		BLM	RMP revised by plan maintenance or amendment	None
Monitoring strategy for physical, biological and social objectives.	Ongoing	Entire Zone	Develop monitoring plan		BLM, EMP, Volunteers		\$10000
Develop Annual Budget	Ongoing	N/A	Utilize implementation plan and other information	Annually	EMP, COSS, BLM		None
Secure Funding for Projects and Operations	Ongoing	N/A	Determine grant application deadlines and budget deadlines.	Ongoing	EMP, COSS, BLM		Unknown

Attachment B

Emerald Mountain Proposed Projects Map - 4/20/07

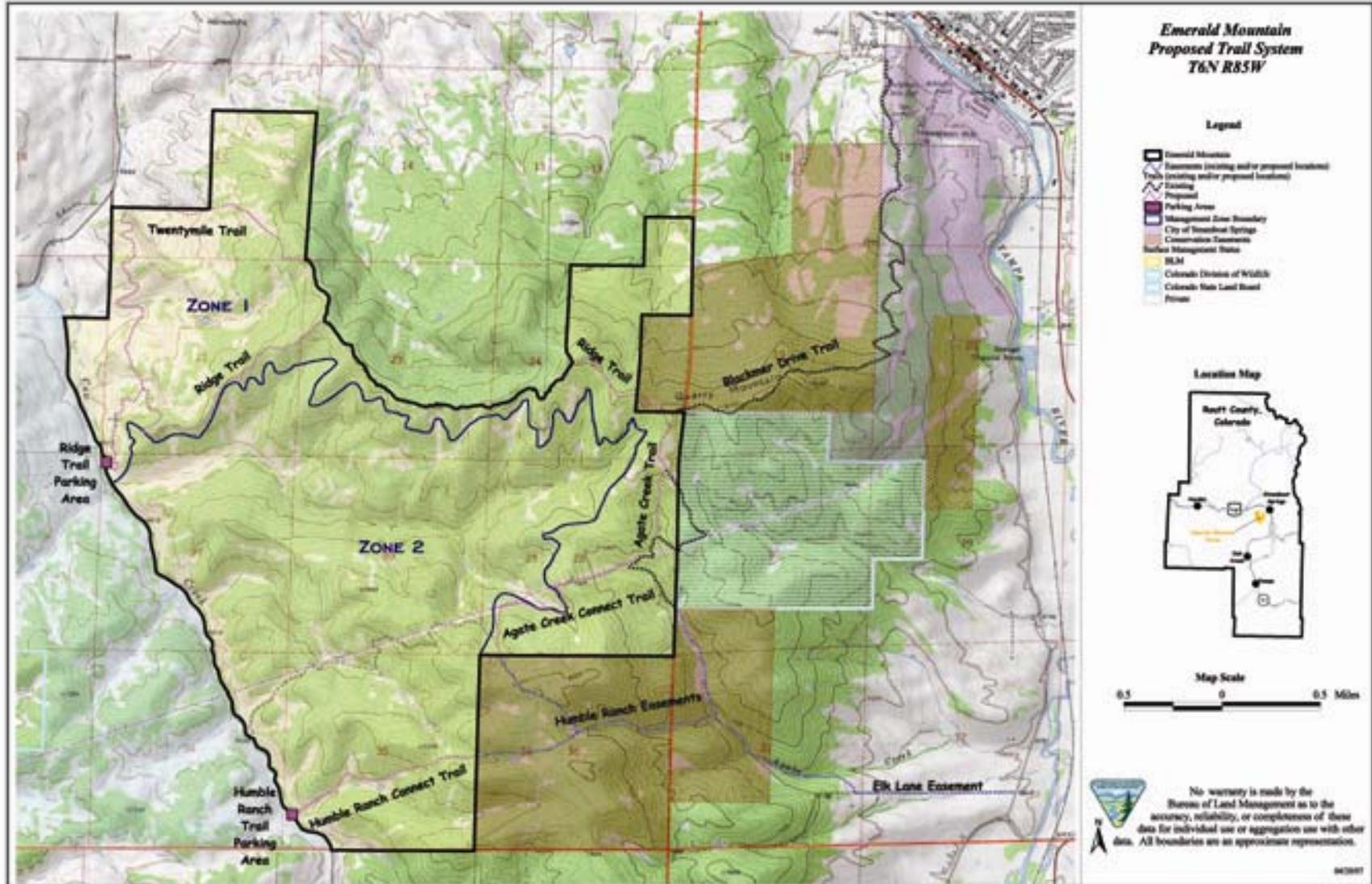


Figure 1